City of MOUNT VERNON

SEPA ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

Purpose of checklist:

Governmental agencies use this checklist to help determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant. This information is also helpful to determine if available avoidance, minimization or compensatory mitigation measures will address the probable significant impacts or if an environmental impact statement will be prepared to further analyze the proposal.

Instructions for applicants:

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Please answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. You may need to consult with an agency specialist or private consultant for some questions. You may use "not applicable" or "does not apply" only when you can explain why it does not apply and not when the answer is unknown. You may also attach or incorporate by reference additional studies reports. Complete and accurate answers to these questions often avoid delays with the SEPA process as well as later in the decision-making process.

The checklist questions apply to all parts of your proposal, even if you plan to do them over a period of time or on different parcels of land. Attach any additional information that will help describe your proposal or its environmental effects. The agency to which you submit this checklist may ask you to explain your answers or provide additional information reasonably related to determining if there may be significant adverse impact.

Instructions for Lead Agencies:
Additional information may be necessary to evaluate the existing environment, all interrelated aspects of the proposal and an analysis of adverse impacts. The checklist is considered the first but not necessarily the only source of information needed to make an adequate threshold determination. Once a threshold determination is made, the lead agency is responsible for the completeness and accuracy of the checklist and other supporting documents.

Use of checklist for nonproject proposals:

For nonproject proposals (such as ordinances, regulations, plans and programs), complete the applicable parts of sections A and B plus the SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS (part D). Please completely answer all questions that apply and note that the words "project," "applicant," and "property or site" should be read as "proposal," "proponent," and "affected geographic area," respectively. The lead agency may exclude (for non-projects) questions in Part B - Environmental Elements –that do not contribute meaningfully to the analysis of the proposal.

A. BACKGROUND

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:

   College Way (SR 538) @ I-5

2. Name of applicant:

   City of Mount Vernon Public Works

3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:

Applicant
Mikael Love (360-336-6204)
City of Mount Vernon
1024 Cleveland Avenue
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

Contact
Ross Widener (425-348-3059)
Widener and Associates
1902 120th Place SE, Suite 202
Everett, WA 98208

4. Date checklist prepared:

July 23, 2018

5. Agency requesting checklist:

City of Mount Vernon Community Development

6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):

August 2018-October 2019

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.

No

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.

NEPA CE Documentation Form
ESA No Effect Letter
Hazardous Materials Memorandum
Environmental Justice Memorandum
Noise Report

9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain.

No

10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.

NPDES Construction Stormwater General Permit Coverage
Coastal Zone Management Certification

11. Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page. (Lead agencies may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.)

The City of Mount Vernon Department of Public Works is proposing to widen a portion of College Way in the vicinity of the I-5 interchange in order to provide congestion relief, safety, and extension of the life of the interchange. The project will add two additional lanes on College Way by relocating the existing retaining walls for the I-5 overpass. The roadway will also be re-channelized to add left turn capacity. In addition, improvements will be made to the existing stormwater management system, including installing new catch basins. The project will also replace approximately 1,525 feet of existing 6-inch asbestos concrete, 8-inch cast iron, and 8-inch ductile iron watermain with new 12-inch ductile iron pipe.

12. Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist.

The proposed project is located within the City of Mount Vernon within of Section 18 of Township 34N and Range 04E (Figure 1 – Vicinity Map). The majority of construction will occur within existing College Way and Freeway Drive right-of-way (ROW) in the vicinity of the existing College Way interchange with I-5.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. Earth

a. General description of the site
(circle one): (Flat,) rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous,
other _____

b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?

Slopes adjacent to the I-5 embankment are approximately 45%.

c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any agricultural land of long-term commercial significance and whether the proposal results in removing any of these soils.

Almost all of the soils within the project area are classified by the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) as Urban land –Mt. Vernon-Field complex which consists of fine sand to sandy loam. This soil type is not considered prime farmland. There is no agricultural land of long-term commercial significance within the project area.

d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.

No

e. Describe the purpose, type, total area, and approximate quantities and total affected area of any filling, excavation, and grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.

There will be a total of 5,990 CY of excavation and a total of 3,700 CY of fill, for a net excavation of 2,290 CY. Fill will consist of imported gravel base from a local commercial source and/or reuse of on-site suitable salvaged material generated in the excavation. All excavation and fill will be contained within the project limits.

f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.

Short-term erosion may occur during construction as clearing, grubbing, and excavation will occur.

g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)?

Currently there are 90,252 square feet of impervious surfaces within the 181,920 square foot project area (50%). There will be a net increase of 17,025 square feet of impervious surfaces, for a total of 107,277 square feet (59%).

h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any:

Standard best management practices (BMPs) will be installed prior to construction and regularly maintained throughout. These BMPs include, but are not limited to: silt fence, straw wattles, temporary seeding, biodegradable erosion control fabric, and revegetation disturbed areas.

2. Air

a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal during construction, operation, and maintenance when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.

The project may result in short-term reductions in air quality due to increased emissions from construction equipment, vehicles, and dust during construction.

b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe.

No

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any:

During construction, measures will be taken to limit the amount of idling time of construction equipment and vehicles. Dust will be minimized by spraying exposed soil with water, if necessary.

3. **Water**

a. Surface Water:

1) Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.

Kulshan Creek is located south of the project area which becomes an open channel downstream of the outfall structure that the existing stormwater main ties into. There is less than 200 feet from the outfall to the Skagit River.

2) Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans.

Work will occur within 200 feet of Kulshan Creek and the Skagit River.

3) Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material.

None

4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

No withdrawals or diversions will occur

5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan.

Yes, the project lies within the FEMA-mapped 100-year floodplain of the Skagit River.

6) Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge.

No waste materials will be discharged to surface waters.

b. Ground Water:

1) Will groundwater be withdrawn from a well for drinking water or other purposes? If so, give a general description of the well, proposed uses and approximate quantities withdrawn from the well. Will water be discharged to groundwater? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

No groundwater will be withdrawn from a well and no water will be discharged to groundwater.

2) Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: Domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve.

No waste material will be discharged into the ground.

c. Water runoff (including stormwater):

1) Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe.

Stormwater runoff from the project will enter the existing and proposed closed conveyance stormwater system. This stormwater is eventually pumped to a combined outfall (with Kulshan Creek) that outlets to the Skagit River via an open channel portion of Kulshan Creek. Stormwater will only be pumped to this outfall if it meets State Water Quality Standards. If stormwater runoff will not meet State Water Quality Standards, it will be pumped to sedimentation tanks (i.e. baker tanks) and will only be discharged once it will meet State Water Quality Standards. The current system has a total of 40 catchbasins, 35 type 1 and 5 type 2. These will be replaced as part of the project with 33 total, 25 type 1 and 8 type 2.

2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe.

Waste materials are not anticipated to enter any ground or surface waters.

2) Does the proposal alter or otherwise affect drainage patterns in the vicinity of the site? If so, describe.

The proposed project will not alter drainage patterns.

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water, and drainage pattern impacts, if any:

To reduce or avoid impacts to surface, ground, and runoff water, the project will incorporate the following measures at a minimum:

- **Preparation and implementation of an approved Temporary Erosion and Sediment Control (TESC) plan**
- **Erosion control BMPs (silt fence, straw wattles, seeding, etc.) will be installed and maintained throughout construction, with new BMPs installed accordingly as site conditions change**
- **Tie in of the new stormwater main will be done during the dry season when there will be minimal or no flow in Kulshan Creek.**
- **Check equipment daily for leaks**
- **Proper containment of any concrete, petroleum, or other potentially hazardous substances**
- **Conduct refueling operations at least 50 feet from any open water body**
- **Preparation of a Spill Prevention, Pollution, and Countermeasures (SPCC) plan for procedures and contacts to act upon in the event of a spill**
- **All washout water and waste materials will be fully contained and disposed of offsite in accordance with federal, state, and local laws**

4. **Plants**

a. Check the types of vegetation found on the site:

_X_ deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other
____ evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other
_X_ shrubs
_X_ grass
____ pasture
____ crop or grain
____ Orchards, vineyards or other permanent crops.
____ wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other
____ water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other
____ other types of vegetation

b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?

A small amount of roadside and ornamental grasses as well as street trees adjacent to College Way will be removed in order to facilitate roadway widening.

c. List threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site.

There are no known listed plant species on or near the site.

d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any:

Disturbed ornamental landscaping areas and grass areas will be restored and replanted.

e. List all noxious weeds and invasive species known to be on or near the site.

Himalayan blackberry, Common tansy, Bufferfly bush

5. **Animals**

a. List any birds and other animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site. Examples include:

birds: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other:
mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other:
fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other _____

b. List any threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site.

Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha* – Puget Sound ESU) are indicated by WDFW as having modeled presence within Kulshan Creek and steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss* – Puget Sound DPS) are indicated by WDFW as having documented presence in Kulshan Creek. In addition, bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus* – Coastal / Puget Sound DPS) are documented in the Skagit River and could potentially utilize Kulshan Creek.

c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.

Most of the State of Washington is part of the Pacific Flyway Route.

d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any:

No impacts will occur to Kulshan Creek or the Skagit River.

e. List any invasive animal species known to be on or near the site.

None known

6. **Energy and natural resources**

a. What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc.

The completed project will have no new energy needs.

b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe.

No

c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any:

None

7. **Environmental health**

a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste, that could occur as a result of this proposal? If so, describe.

There is a risk of hazardous waste being encountered during excavation for this project as there is documented petroleum contamination within and adjacent to the project area.

1) Describe any known or possible contamination at the site from present or past uses.

There is documented petroleum contamination within and adjacent to the proposed project area. There is likely petroleum contaminated soil and groundwater within existing City of Mount Vernon ROW in the project area. In addition to potential petroleum contaminated soil and groundwater within the project area, there are additional adjacent properties that have documented petroleum contamination that have not been fully remediated and may have contamination that has migrated.

2) Describe existing hazardous chemicals/conditions that might affect project development and design. This includes underground hazardous liquid and gas transmission pipelines located within the project area and in the vicinity.

There are natural gas transmission lines within the project area.

3) Describe any toxic or hazardous chemicals that might be stored, used, or produced during the project's development or construction, or at any time during the operating life of the project.

As the project will involve concrete work and the use of heavy equipment, concrete and petroleum products will be stored and used throughout the project.

4) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

No additional emergency services will be required.

5) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:

A Contaminated Soil and Groundwater Management Plan will be prepared prior to construction and will include the establishment of a staging area for any suspected contaminated soil or groundwater encountered near the listed sites of concern so that it can be tested and analyzed. It will also establish procedures to follow if contaminated soil or groundwater is encountered during construction activities. If contaminated soil or groundwater is encountered during construction, the contract will require it to be contained, removed, and appropriately disposed of off-site in accordance with federal, state, and local regulations. Gas lines will be clearly identified to avoid inadvertent impacts during construction.

b. **Noise**

1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)?

Traffic noise is the primary source of noise within the project area. Noise is not anticipated to affect the project.

2) What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site.

There will be short-term increases in noise due to operation of equipment during construction. Due to the high level of background noise from traffic in the area, construction noise is not anticipated to impact surrounding businesses. A noise study was conducted which showed a small increase in noise to the area in the future from predicted traffic increases unrelated to the project. The project did not significantly change the noise environment.

3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any: [help]

No long-term noise abatement for businesses were found to be feasible due to access issues.

8. **Land and shoreline use**

a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties? Will the proposal affect current land uses on nearby or adjacent properties? If so, describe.

The site is currently used as a public roadway. Existing properties are commercial. Minor ROW acquisition will not affect current land uses.

b. Has the project site been used as working farmlands or working forest lands? If so, describe. How much agricultural or forest land of long-term commercial significance will be converted to other uses as a result of the proposal, if any? If resource lands have not been designated, how many acres in farmland or forest land tax status will be converted to nonfarm or nonforest use?

No resource lands have been designated in the project area.

1) Will the proposal affect or be affected by surrounding working farm or forest land normal business operations, such as oversize equipment access, the application of pesticides, tilling, and harvesting? If so, how:

The project will not impact farm or forest land.

c. Describe any structures on the site.

A portion of the project is located under the existing I-5 overpass for College Way

d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what?

No

e. What is the current zoning classification of the site?

Areas outside existing ROW are zoned General Commercial District (C-2)

f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?

The current comprehensive plan designation of the areas outside of existing ROW Retail Malls and General Commercial (RM/GC). Park is Open Space / Cemetery (OS)

g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?

A portion of the proposed stormwater main replacement is within both the Urban Conservancy and Natural Shoreline Environments of the Skagit River.

h. Has any part of the site been classified as a critical area by the city or county? If so, specify.

Kulshan Creek and its 75-foot standard buffer at the southern end of the proposed stormwater main replacement are critical areas in accordance with City of Mount Vernon municipal code.

i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?

None

j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?

None

k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any:

N/A

L. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any:

None

m. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with nearby agricultural and forest lands of long-term commercial significance, if any:

N/A

9. **Housing**

a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

None

b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

None

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any:

N/A

10. **Aesthetics**

a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed?

The tallest height of any structure will be the approximately 18 ft. high concrete retaining walls.

b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?

No views will be altered or obstructed by the new retaining walls as there will be no change to the existing I-5 bridge deck.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any:

N/A

11. **Light and glare**

a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?

None

b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?

No

c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal? [help]

None

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any:

N/A

12. **Recreation**

a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?

Lions Park North is in the vicinity of the existing stormwater outfall at the south end of the project. It is located between the Skagit River and Freeway Drive. Recreational opportunities at this park include walking trails through the Shoreline of the Skagit River.

b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe. [help]

The project will not impact the park or trails.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any:

None

13. **Historic and cultural preservation**

a. Are there any buildings, structures, or sites, located on or near the site that are over 45 years old listed in or eligible for listing in national, state, or local preservation registers located on or near the site? If so, specifically describe.

There are 5 residential properties that are older than 45 years old that are just over 200 feet from the project area. These properties are east of I-5 in the vicinity of the proposed stormwater main replacement and will not be impacted by the proposed project.

b. Are there any landmarks, features, or other evidence of Indian or historic use or occupation? This may include human burials or old cemeteries. Are there any material evidence, artifacts, or areas of cultural importance on or near the site? Please list any professional studies conducted at the site to identify such resources.

There are no known landmarks, features, or other evidence of Indian or historic use or occupation on or near the site. There are also no known material evidence, artifacts, or areas of cultural importance on or near the site. In addition, all excavation will be within the limits of previous fill material for construction of I-5, College Way, and Freeway Drive as well as within the limits of previous trenching for existing utilities.

c. Describe the methods used to assess the potential impacts to cultural and historic resources on or near the project site. Examples include consultation with tribes and the department of archeology and historic preservation, archaeological surveys, historic maps, GIS data, etc.

DAHP's WISAARD database

d. Proposed measures to avoid, minimize, or compensate for loss, changes to, and disturbance to resources. Please include plans for the above and any permits that may be required.

N/A

14. **Transportation**

a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site or affected geographic area and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any.

The project area is served by I-5, College Way (SR 538), and Freeway Drive. No changes in access to the current street system are proposed.

b. Is the site or affected geographic area currently served by public transit? If so, generally describe. If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?

There are currently two Skagit Transit bus stops adjacent to the proposed project area, one at the intersection of Freeway Drive and Riverbend Road and the other on Freeway Drive across from Skagit PUD. While there will be trenching for the stormwater main replacement in the vicinity of these bus stops, the proposed project will not interfere their use and there will be no detour of bus traffic. Traffic access will be maintained throughout construction.

c. How many additional parking spaces would the completed project or non-project proposal have? How many would the project or proposal eliminate?

The project will temporarily eliminate 7 parking spaces within the adjacent Denny's restaurant parking lot as a result of a temporary construction easement. There will be no permanent addition or elimination of parking spaces.

d. Will the proposal require any new or improvements to existing roads, streets, pedestrian, bicycle or state transportation facilities, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).

The project involves improvements to College Way (SR 538), a public roadway. Two travel lanes will be added near the I-5 interchange providing congestion relief, improved safety, and extension of the interchange function. Re-channelization will also add left turn capacity.

e. Will the project or proposal use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.

No

f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project or proposal? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur and what percentage of the volume would be trucks (such as commercial and nonpassenger vehicles). What data or transportation models were used to make these estimates?

The project will create more efficient traffic flow through the project area, no additional vehicular trips will be generated.

g. Will the proposal interfere with, affect or be affected by the movement of agricultural and forest products on roads or streets in the area? If so, generally describe.

No.

h. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any:

None.

15. **Public services**

a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, public transit, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.

No.

b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any.

N/A

16. **Utilities**

a. Circle utilities currently available at the site:
electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other _____

b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed.

The project will replace approximately 1,525 feet of existing 6-inch asbestos concrete, 8-inch cast iron, and 8-inch ductile iron watermain with new 12-inch ductile iron pipe. The work will include connections to existing services, fire hydrants, and watermains. The work will be completed in accordance with the PUD comprehensive planning and district standards.

C. SIGNATURE

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision. Under penalty of perjury I swear that all information provided is true and correct.

Signature: _____

Name of signee ESCO BETL

Position and Agency/Organization PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

Date Submitted: 8/3/2018